



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/532,461	09/29/2005	Izak de Villiers Louw	10025.XXXX.PCUS00	3923
23369	7590	12/27/2006	EXAMINER	
HOWREY LLP C/O IP DOCKETING DEPARTMENT 2941 FAIRVIEW PARK DRIVE, SUITE 200 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22042-7195			GRAVINI, STEPHEN MICHAEL	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		3749		
		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
		12/27/2006	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Response to Rule 312 Communication	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/532,461	LOUW ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Stephen Gravini	3749	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

1. The amendment filed on 06 December 2006 under 37 CFR 1.312 has been considered, and has been:

- a) entered.
- b) entered as directed to matters of form not affecting the scope of the invention.
- c) disapproved because the amendment was filed after the payment of the issue fee.
Any amendment filed after the date the issue fee is paid must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.313(c)(1) and the required fee to withdraw the application from issue.
- d) disapproved. See explanation below.
- e) entered in part. See explanation below.

The claim has been amended such that it would require re-opening prosecution for further consideration and/or search after the claim had been indicated allowable. The examiner's amendment deleted a duplicate occurrence of the recitation "elastomeric materials having constituents which are not confined to carbon and hydrogen and which include, in addition to carbon and hydrogen, other atomic species as constituents." Applicants now submit that the "elastomeric materials having constituents which 'are' (emphasis added) confined to carbon and hydrogen" and added "polymeric materials" which was not earlier claimed. The claims were examined based on the duplicate recitation and changing one of the duplicate recitations such that it patentably distinguishes the invention then adding another limitation would required further examination consideration and/or search, such that a rule 312 entry is not proper. The reference submitted by information disclosure statement is considered and included in this communication.